

America's Great Outdoors
Notes from Listening Session

Location: Missoula, MT

Date: June 2, 2010

President Obama launched a national conversation about conservation in America at the White House Conference on the Great Outdoors on April 16, 2010. The President understands that protecting and restoring the lands and waters that we love and reconnecting people to the outdoors must happen at the local level. Therefore, President Obama directed the principal leaders of the Initiative to travel across the country to listen and learn from people directly involved in finding grassroots solutions to conserve our lands, waterways, historical and cultural resources and to reconnect Americans with the Outdoors. The President indicated that the sessions should engage the full range of interested groups, including tribal leaders, farmers and ranchers, sportsmen, community park groups, foresters, youth groups, businesspeople, educators, State and local government, recreation and conservation groups and others. The President placed a special priority on engaging with America's youth. Below are notes from the breakout groups at the Listening Session sorted. Please feel free to use the ideation tool at <http://ideas.usda.gov/ago/ideas.nsf/> if you would like to share your thoughts.

Discussion Questions

1. What works: Please share your thoughts and ideas on effective strategies for conservation, recreation and reconnecting people to the outdoors.
2. Challenges: What obstacles exist to achieve your goals for conservation, recreation, or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
3. Federal government role: How can the federal government be a more effective partner in helping to achieve conservation, recreation or reconnecting people to the outdoors?
4. What additional tools and resources would help your efforts be even more successful?

	Comment
	Why having meeting for younger folks – as older person he feels that he is one of the group too – feels not include when have a youth listening session and not include older folks- - young people idealistic – things are not perfect – so young session will be jaded.
	Focus on specifics in realm of federal authority. Agree with Tom. Focus needs to be more than just federal lands.
	Given climate change need to focus on conservation. Not just on sportsmen but on the resources, too.
	Agree with Ken – Landowners need to make a living. There's 1 million acres in the Lee Metcalf Wilderness and much of our time is spent outdoors. I've also spent much time in Libby. The Timber Industry is almost gone. Unemployment is 17% - the highest in MT. Something must be done. In Libby, 60% of the school aged children are on free or reduced-cost lunches. They're trying to get a mine started. It's been permitted by the state, but the USFS is holding back. For every person working there are 3 more out of work. We need ways to put Montanans back to work. All need to have the chance to

	work.
	I have concerns about catastrophic fires. We've gone overboard not taking care of forests properly. We need to put people to work; help forests and help animals by creating jobs. Husband and she went to public and FS to do something about catastrophic fires in Montana. Thought was to do sensible thinning – not clear cutting – if trying to clean up air then consider that air quality after forest fire is hundred times worst – we have gone overboard as far as not taking care of forest properly with woods that have over abundance of small trees. Need to put folks back to work to help forest, animals, create jobs.
	Obstacle to consider 1) catastrophic fires. Small diameter timber and beetle kill, need to act – but cant because of litigation – need to slow down ability of env from stopping forest service – 2) how to get rid of small diameter timber; fund gasification process for fuel at local level. Can bring private funds to help with this – but need to stop litigation – put good science in place – not talking about clear cutting – but using new methods. Create forest where that fire is healthy.
	Echo more energetic approach is needed to get forests back into sync with fire regimens; current imbalance due to lack of thinning.
	<p>I'm a rancher – landowner and a neighbor of a forest. I appreciate the USFS. We have the same issues. The MT legislature is working with us. I think they understand the need for a win-win scenario. Family forest owners are all about the outdoors. We promote family forests for a win-win. We work to sustain the forests. There needs to be wood products thinning around communities. We need to keep the timber in America for made in America products. This will sustain wood locally instead of it being shipped elsewhere and overseas. The Montana legislature has a really good policy. In 2007, their proactive approach was needed.</p> <p>Public lands should be included in incentive programs. There are no mills any more in Colo; they are shipping their timber out of state. I don't want to see that happen in MT. Montana will always have some timber management and we have the need for it in MT. We need to sustain private forests along with the public.</p>
	I can't believe that the USFS can't allow access. I say, turn the land over to the state to manage. The State of Montana will provide jobs, access, and other opportunities.
	We all have similar messages. We all like the same things, but we have different ways to recreate and use the outdoors on private and public lands. I've found if I'm working with opposing viewpoints to keep in mind that we are all out to enjoy the forests and being outdoors. This is the common theme to start from: the Federal Gov't needs to recognize that common value. Starting from there we can work from there. The USFS and the gov't need to be flexible to develop rules to allow people from diff. User groups to use to they don't damage land or ecosystem. Having a flexible federal gov't is important and having people in the gov't who understand that common value.
	Avoid wonky language. Provide a forum to allow dialogue. Should be no threats for sharing opinions. Collaborate on local levels. Be careful about how. I care about Big Bend just as much as I care about Glacier National park. Public lands are for all. Obstacles: must be more agency funding. Firefighting must be separate – it's draining agencies. Agencies

	<p>a hindrance or not helping because they don't have resources. More hiking trails, trailheads are needed. Need stronger enforced travel plans.</p> <p>More law enforcement, backcountry rangers, on ground, not degrading. Habitat protection. More funding. Overriding point: defining goal of wildlands watershed protection and preservation. Won't matter for civilization if not enough and clean.</p>
	<p>Insurance on private land to access for education programs is expensive – eg. Class room group coming on land – but need to get insured – super high cost – so fear of liability keeps them from granting access.</p>
	<p>Need ways to make it easier to volunteer without liability for organizers</p>
	<p>FRPP – Great farm & ranch land protect/program. Great way for land trusts & USDA to partner to tweak and combine for landowner contributions. It's already realized and recognized. It's an example of what good program already does.</p>
	<p>My focus is on the North Flathead River Basin/catchment. I Want to point out: water quality so important, should support local efforts to manage. Densely populated areas should work to support those efforts. Concern about wilderness – Montana is one of two states that have not completed its roadless areas review process. Headwaters are in those areas. Montana needs to finish that process. Need sidebar riparian areas in general. Much benefit to all when protect riparian bull trout and other sensitive species. Feds need to think big. Work on Crown of Continent ecosystem level. In order to capture watershed issues, must look at that large, ecosystem scale. Education is crucial. In my work in water, it's complicated the way little things make such a big difference. Once changes occur and resources are altered, it's harder to go back. Montana is blessed with high quality and we need to preserve that quality. We should have the foresight to protect water quality.</p>
	<p>There is legislation pending to help air quality and help employees. We need the means to keep slash piles from rotting or burning. Sen. Tester has introduced a bill to build refuse burner around areas of Montana. Example: Seeley Lake last trash burner. If a furnace were available to remove refuse safely, could generate power...more power than all windmills on Rocky Mt Front. Eureka's burner is out of business, but if they'd had had a way to remove the slash, they could have been kept in business. Need generator to turn turbine and make electricity.</p> <p>Conservation definition of limited use (not good)– should be controlled use not limited use – when we limit use like not want people riding bicycles because of impacts to environment – but we are part of animals and limitations make us feel excluded from globe – concept of humans supposedly affecting environment negatively has gone too far – He likes to see clear water and clear skies like in Chicago skies were red and bad at one time – but better now water pollution and air –in town of Seeley Lake air is polluted – just because someone set a limit at particles so small that not meaningful to him</p>
	<p>Agree need to manage forest – we have lots of developed lands with roads and support continued timber management in areas where we have roads – But remaining roadless lands were roadless for a reason. Condone continued protection of roadless areas – these are not good timber lands – that's why they were not developed – controversy now is not</p>

	<p>timber management of these roadless areas but motorized recreation. Uncontrolled motorize is one of threats Chief Bosworths. Now have unregulated motorized use. We want use to look back at the 1970 designation of these areas. Off road enforcement of unauthorized use is not working. Outlaws are rewarded they - have control on wildlands. They have impacts to water/wildlife and displace other folks who want to have quiet experience away from motorized. So, motorized folks are rewarded by having that use exclusively because folks avoid them. Need better communication between judicial branches and admin to have better enforcement. (Aside- what works well – Teddy Roosevelt – courage he and partners had in establishing national forest. This was highly controversial at time and not a collaborative effort. It was visionary. We need courage when designating special areas. Special area designation has been controversial - but it has been celebrated afterwards. We urge administration to be courageous despite the controversy.)</p>
	<p>Need more hiking trails and tools. Need stronger and enforceable travel plans. So two things government needs 1) more funding 2) protection of watershed for quantity and quality of water – no matter what we do and want, it won't matter unless we have clean water.</p>
	<p>Accessibility is important. What has worked in childhood - family camped all summer long. Want to promote free camping. In 50 and 60's there were station wagons, coolers, camping tents, and access to camp sites all over. As a citizen in MT – hunting and fishing accessibility was based on an ethic – ethic started with family camping with group of folks that know how to do it right – also had camp fire and girls scouts that re-enforced concept on how to behave – finding a way to bring an ethic training is crucial – maybe no one told them when they were young not to throw trash. Need to educate – this is key. She was lucky to have ecology teachers. We don't have these now because we are teaching to standards and are losing concepts of outdoor field trips and outdoor education. Want to see promotion of education and need to prioritize to educate on the outdoors. Field trips when young and youth conservation core – these put her life on outdoor trajectory. At 15-18 yrs.old, youth were paid to work in outdoors – plant trees – build trail – and it included environmental education. We should re-instate these nationwide. Need training in classroom and outside classroom. In Missoula, MT flagship outdoor program is funded through mental health program. Want to facility flagship to educate on outdoors – use programs like this in place – e.g. like afterschool programs. Maybe also support teachers in environmental education training. Need to build ethic that grows through youth. Help them be comfortable teaching outdoor education. What Works – rural assistant committee and FS partnered so school can be accessing an outdoor sport – FS folks came into school – they facilitated field trips to the space with the school. Need to fund gas in tank to get them outside.</p>
	<p>Have concerns about access for people who can't get into pick up; can't walk up stairs; can't get on horse; can't get wheel chair under gates.</p> <p>A friend of mine had a friend who was terminally ill. The guy wanted to go hunting, but where could he go in a wheelchair? BLM has a place in Garnets and there's one on the Seeley Lake District – only 2 opportunities for this. Seeley great chance to cooperate with</p>

	<p>Plum Creek. There is such a high demand and it will grow. Current situation forces those seeking access to speak up well in demand since its all first-come, first-served. BLM offers poor elk habitat; mule season is quite poor as well. We started a group 2 years ago for private land opportunities. So far, it's very selective. We've had no progress with NPS, BLM, USFS to provide access for mobility-challenged to be able to bird watch, fish, etc. Urge agencies to address with next round of planning. The definition of those identified as handicapped, now very inclusive. Thousands and thousands who could engage in outdoor activities, but no access. Reliance on wheeled device is growing as population ages. They don't enjoy access they should. Need concerted access. Not talking access to outhouses. Talking about dispersed access. They should have a chance to listen to dickey birds. To get up at 3 am; to get dressed and have the chance to hear and see animals, maybe shoot them. They need opportunities that do not current exist.</p>
	<p>Seeley Forest Association</p> <p>I also see the need for and support for environmental education (EE) in classrooms to get kids reconnected. Most houses around here are timber frame. The EE help kids know where wood products/houses come from. People react to 15,000 board feet for a timber frame; it's not that much, but it sounds like a lot. I'm a Resource Conservation graduate from UofM. Projects are made to sound like they are clear cutting the entire forest. Not true. Kids don't know what it takes to build things. Wood can be sustainable. We've got to manage the land. For whatever reason, we've got to do a smarter job or we're going to lose it. I support EE in classrooms and the public investment in conservation and restoration. We need legacy projects to have working management plans on public and private forests. Regardless of size, all forests contribute to the whole system. Programs out there can use existing infrastructure. The State of Montana does a great job of managing forests.</p> <p>Want to add regarding liability insurance – rates are jacked up. It's not feasible to take out insurance. If a landowner wants class room groups on their land, the liability insurance rates are super high cost. The fear of liability keeps landowners from allowing access. Told to "be careful or users will sue you." Be careful.</p>
	<p>Montanans usually think conservation. The Montana Conservation Corp. is alive and well and put hundreds of high school age youth out in the field: performing trail construction, trail maintenance; fuel reduction, other construction projects. Employ high school students throughout the state. Develop and implement education curriculum. Foster stewardship and support for leave no trace ethics. Feedback after term of service term ends: can't retain; no jobs available to go from seasonal to year round employment; chasm from seasonal conservation corps program to permanent employment; no bridge. MCC is committed to young people in outdoor field ranks but no way to get them into system.</p>
	<p>If ideas run too far afield, there's always the nuclear family option. There are local, good programs – make it kinetic/physical and it sinks in. Volunteers for preservation. Work, hit liability wall. If ways for Gov't to make easier, would help. Excite them. Parents not much different than kids. Own experience and stories. Best way to convince. Bring down to local level.</p>

	<p>He is a parent – his son went to ecology camp on flathead lake – teachers and community volunteer make this happen – school does not support this program with staff and budget – need more programs like this, that can be supported. Involve children – involve them as early as can handle it. Son is exposed to lots – may not agree with all that he is exposed to– but can have debate/dialogue on it with his son. Local programs are good to support – local teachers and community make it happen – make it physical – they make them do something and connect them – e.g. maintaining trails, preservation work. Efforts can run against liability wall. Need ways to make it easier to volunteer without liability for organizers – kids get excited about stories and experience – that connects people – at local level.</p>
	<p>Seeley Lake has 1,000 miles of trails, but the Bob Marshall doesn't have one mile for ATV use. Lots of USFS roads, but at the same time many want roads closed off. This situation has eliminated any form of getting back there. I could get back into the forests when I was 20. Now that I'm 70, I can't get back there. I think all USFS roads /trails should be opened unless they are closed for grizzly protection, etc. ATVs are not that noisy; could start one here in this room and folks wouldn't clear the room. Enforce laws. Arrest the violators.</p>
	<p>Avoid wonky language. Provide a forum to allow dialogue. Should be no threats for sharing opinions. Collaborate on local levels. Be careful about how. I care about Big Bend just as much as I care about Glacier National park. Public lands are for all. Obstacles: must be more agency funding. Firefighting must be separate – it's draining agencies. Agencies a hindrance or not helping because they don't have resources. More hiking trails, trailheads are needed. Need stronger enforced travel plans. More law enforcement, backcountry rangers, on ground, not degrading. Habitat protection. More funding. Overriding point: defining goal of wildlands watershed protection and preservation. Won't matter for civilization if not enough and clean.</p>
	<p>Connect youth with landscape and increase scientific literacy. Environmental education opportunities are critical. Give boilerplate training to local employees and teachers so they can make connections for and with students. Providing training and resources for local educators is critical. Training is essential to connect with land managers and how they can understand and be a part of it. Recommend – encourage relation between FS and other land management agencies and schools and private land owners. Folks in urban areas need to have better connection – need science background to make informed decisions. Also give land managers training, time, and resources to provide those connections and local teachers need that time and training too – need to inspire kids for active role.</p>
	<p>My focus is on the North Flathead River Basin/catchment. I Want to point out: water quality so important, should support local efforts to manage. Densely populated areas should work to support those efforts. Concern about wilderness – Montana is one of two states that have not completed its roadless areas review process. Headwaters are in those areas. Montana needs to finish that process. Need sidebar riparian areas in general. Much</p>

	<p>benefit to all when protect riparian bull trout and other sensitive species. Feds need to think big. Work on Crown of Continent ecosystem level. In order to capture watershed issues, must look at that large, ecosystem scale. Education is crucial. In my work in water, it's complicated the way little things make such a big difference. Once changes occur and resources are altered, it's harder to go back. Montana is blessed with high quality and we need to preserve that quality. We should have the foresight to protect water quality.</p>
	<p>Connect youth with landscape and increase scientific literacy.</p>
	<p>Need more monitoring (fund it) of backcountry rangers and enforcement on ground. Need science based data not political</p>
	<p>Thank Tom for being here. I'm here representing private land conservation. We partner with landowners to protect farms, ranches, etc; to keep lands intact. I have 3 things to say: With regard to what works: Conservation tax incentives. They originated in Montana in 2006. They expired in 2009. An extender package was granted for 2010. It's an important land tool for land owners. We want to see it extended permanently for the lasting tax incentives. Next is the Land and Water Conservation Fund – It works great. There's a tremendous waiting list so it needs to be supported. Given the ready list of projects, the LWCF resources would put dollars to work on meaningful projects immediately.</p>
	<p>One of things attempted a decade half ago was Teaming with Wildlife Program – excise tax on backpack and other camping/recreation equip (backpacks, binoculars, birdseed, etc.) – money funneled back to states – instead of pitman robinson tax – the teaming with wildlife tax would be for states for use on nongame programs and other programs that are inadequately funded – there was opposition to that but admin at the time supported it – but has been replaced by state wildlife action plans – but these action plans come with annual congressional appropriations of that money and they decide where money goes. Instead the Teaming with Wildlife would focus on species and wildlife that are currently not addressed. Wildlife draws people to outdoors – not all use on big game – shouldn't put all burdens on hunters and fisherman. The administration supported the legislation, but it met with opposition. Now, programs are not guaranteed. Annual appropriations & allocations are so limited, there needs to be a different way to fund these needs.</p>
	<p>Obstacle to consider - need more agency funding – fire firefighter money needs to be separate. Agencies need funding to help reconnect with wild areas.</p>
	<p>I want to mention something that was attempted decade ago. It involved teaming agencies with wildlife. Back taxes were funnel back to states. Like the Pimman-Rockeson Act (?) that directed an excise tax on backpacks, binoculars, bird seed, etc. and would have funneled funds back to the states. It would be directed to non-game other programs which are sorely inadequate and underfunded. The administration supported the legislation, but it met with opposition. Now, programs are not guaranteed. Annual approp & allocations are so limited, there needs to be a different way to fund these needs.</p>

	<p>I'm a rancher – landowner and a neighbor of a forest. I appreciate the USFS. We have the same issues. The MT legislature is working with us. I think they understand the need for a win-win scenario. Family forest owners are all about the outdoors. We promote family forests for a win-win. We work to sustain the forests. There needs to be wood products thinning around communities. We need to keep the timber in America for made in America products. This will sustain wood locally instead of it being shipped elsewhere and overseas. The Montana legislature has a really good policy. In 2007, their proactive approach was needed.</p>
	<p>With regard to biomass initiatives on private lands; not sure what is currently going on. Need to look into how/whether private lands included in biomass bills? There are numerous climate bills in this session. During the last congressional session private lands were included and public lands were not.</p>
	<p>Thinking about sensibilities, there is the Ravalli Rural Assistance Committee. A USFS partnership allows access to the Willoughby area for accessibility. This partnership facilitates field trips to the area. It's a nice 3 prong partnership. There's grant money for transportation. Field trips. Keep tours short on private lands. USFS can provide access without liability.</p>
	<p>Montanans usually think conservation. The Montana Conservation Corp. is alive and well and put hundreds of high school age youth out in the field: performing trail construction, trail maintenance; fuel reduction, other construction projects. Employ high school students throughout the state. Develop and implement education curriculum. Foster stewardship and support for leave no trace ethics. Feedback after term of service term ends: can't retain; no jobs available to go from seasonal to year round employment; chasm from seasonal conservation corps program to permanent employment; no bridge. MCC is committed to young people in outdoor field ranks but no way to get them into system.</p>
	<p>I can't believe that the USFS can't allow access. I say, turn the land over to the state to manage. The State of Montana will provide jobs, access, and other opportunities.</p>
	<p>We hosted Tuesday's session on the Blackfoot. It was a great day. I focus on the Blackfoot watershed. With regard to the question: what's the role for federal agencies. The best example I can offer: yesterday and today. Provide more of these opportunities. Local community efforts are well grounded. They have good handle on how to address these issues. Seek local group's ideas and council; better to work from locals on up; not top down. Effectiveness of our organization (all partner organizations) is to break down and examine, identify useful tools, find the right people to represent the issues. Agencies need to have right faces/resources available on the ground level such as Tim Love & Amber Camp. They are useful and helpful folks who live in the local community. It's good to have the local staff at the table – they live in the communities.</p>
	<p>There is legislation pending to help air quality and help employees. We need the means</p>

	to keep slash piles from rotting or burning. Sen. Tester has introduced a bill to build refuse burner around areas of Montana. Example: Seeley Lake last trash burner. If a furnace were available to remove refuse safely, could generate power...more power than all windmills on Rocky Mt Front. Eureka's burner is out of business, but if they'd had had a way to remove the slash, they could have been kept in business. Need generator to turn turbine and make electricity.
	Pretty proud of MT headway brni8ging opposing factions together before court. Show examples to court – require sitting down first. Get together before it gets confrontational. Get word out early. Start buildings local team to hash out. Here's a bizarre post to create: the Czar of Commonsense. As spokesman for local federal agencies, this position would be close and could advocate for it approval process. We live in such a litigious society; this would allow forests and other agencies to deal one on one before an issue heads to court. Find a way within the agencies and offices and overall system to recognize and deal with matters early on. Look to best examples
	On topic of how federal government can be better partners – one of things is to use appeals process more effectively. Don't let the process go until we force them to go to court. Instead force stake holders to come together before go to court. Other idea – FS needs to create forums that feel safe for public discourse – lots of polarity on issue. In this polarizing climate it's intimidating for average citizen to come in and speak. So atmosphere needs to be better controlled so everyone feels comfortable to come to microphone. People should not feel intimidated in democratic setting. As to strategies for conservation that worked and enhances conservation and makes feel connected, road and dam removal is working. Some of collaborative models work well – but encourage to be cautious because collaboration is at local level – but lands are owned by all folks across nation not just local folks – people care as much about Big Bend NP as Glacier NP even though he or others don't live there – so caution to local collaboration.
	Light Blue Breakout Room Comments
	Agencies have not been able to do the work we expect them to do. They are not paying attention to the landscapes for the sake of doing business. Agencies need to be consistent with the communities and take note of how some of the projects they back are not what the communities want.
	NRCS has good incentive programs for private lands. Need to work better on the outreach to those land owners.
	2 things that keep people from coming to the outdoors. Facade (not Disneyworld) or fear. Govt needs to provide a mentoring program to conservation groups to reach out to publics and get them interested in the outdoors. Teach them that risk is ok, and could actually be fun. Yes, there is risk in going to the outdoors, but it's worth the experience. Restoration needs to be looked at from all angles before any work is done.

	Transportation systems need to be beefed up in restoration process.
	Focusing on working landscapes. From a conservation standpoint, need to provide a linkage between public and private lands. There's a misconception that private lands are not important. Need to change that thought. Private lands need to be included and considered high importance. Need for incentives to private landowners to give them the backing to want to be connected. Need to get word out to those landowners, provide unbiased info, to get them to step up and be included.
	working with schools curriculum based for kids to experience outdoors. Provide funding for kids to visit park with rangers. Provide Internet activities that link back to the visit. 1/2 day training sessions at the park that focus on loons, mountain goats, pica, clarks nut cracker, and invasive weeds. Enables anyone who's interested to come in and learn more about the park and what's in it.
	public schools play important role in this AGO initiative. Look at teachers as the coordinators to help spread the word. Then call in the other resource specialists to assist in the teaching/learning programs.
	water and climate change. Water is a limited and defining feature of our landscape. Attended a river honoring session on the Blackfeet reservation. Elders give history and importance of the river in their lives. Kids gathered to learn about and experience the river. Canada—citizen based groups to become more aware about their watersheds community based activity.
	80% of the population lives in cities. Need to work with US bicycle organizations, try to build and advocate sustainable travel. Focus on taking urban walking and biking networks and connecting them with suburban landscapes. Invest in the link between the two. Bicycling reduces pollution. Promote sustainable travel thru parks. Connects nation parks, state parks and local parks.
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	Huge movement in corps to provide manpower (supervision) and jobs for youth who want to get out into the woods and nature. Provides education and jobs at

	the same time. On line connectivity, increase awareness with administration that these groups are out there and if funded more, could very well bring in more youth.
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	successful orgs that enable a coalition of interests to work together. Come to the table and talk about what to do with a particular place. Working together on all places, not just focus on what's important to me. Need to be willing to listen carefully, willing to give, and agree that you're not going to be able to agree on everything.
	economy important. Need to see groups working together, dovetail natural resources and cultural resources together. Tamarak festival held at the same time as the brew fest, provides several types of groups all working together to focus on natural resources and bringing community together to combine all interests. Economic value is brought to the community.
	<p>--- his organization provides workshops on preservation on culture resources. Works with local communities showing them how to restore and preserve the important pieces of their communities. Focus on importance of what these communities have and what they need to do to preserve them.</p> <p>Hosted symposium on signature landscapes; brought together culture and natural folks to focus on all parts of preservation.</p>
	don't feel we need to focus on new programs, but need to coordinate what we've got. Need more opportunities to provide connections with the groups we have here today.

	Making connections and establishing coordination.
	huge opportunity for govt to look to outdoor industries. Working with industries, listening and working with them can provide financial role in assistance in getting people to visit the outdoors.
What Works	<p>Develop trust but get a steady infusion from knowledgeable private land holders and trusted bureaucrats.</p> <p>We need people who know the issues and can give firm direction. How about getting federal agencies to work more effectively at the community level. Local communities need a steady infusion from knowledgeable bureaucrats and knowledgeable local people. Have the agency people get out of the office and really work at the community level to find common ground. Really have them work for the public. Have them help build understanding and support for the agency.</p>
What Works	Reexamine the role of national parks in this initiative. National Parks drive the State economy. Look at the relationship between national parks and the communities surrounding the parks. Parks are important part of community and have a key role as we think about building relationships with communities. We need to continue to connect youth with parks.
What Works	We achieve success higher success by getting people involved on the ground and in partnerships with other agencies. We have good groups like Rocky Mountain Elk, and Blackfoot Foundation. These groups have shown over and over if you engage people on the group level there is great success. Also successful with engaging federal employees.
What Works	There do seem to be some successes going on in Montana. It appears to be reflective of a deep desire of the people. There seem to be good bridges built between conservation groups and other locals. Getting together at places like Trixies in Ovando is key to process. There is a deep desire for it to work with communities. People are connected to the land. In Montana bridges have been built between a wide range of users. That is unique when that happens and out of that great things occur.
What Works	The Federal government could help support bridges by engaging knowledgeable people who know the history and ecology of an area. If we look at a system that already exists we could get people out enjoying what we have. State parks are being threatened by budget cuts, if we don't engage people we will lose these lands.
What Works	The people of communities have come together to create bonds and conservation easements where people can hike and bike, an example near Missoula is the Rattlesnake Recreation Area. Need to look at the big picture: other Montana communities are following examples of protecting lands around cities as has been done in Missoula. We

	have good leadership to support these efforts in Missoula, but the resources (funding) are stretched.
What Works	Missoula Open Space Plan passed with 60-70% approval in 1995. Bonds for open space funding have passed with over 70% approval. People in Missoula love our sense of place and being able to look up to the hills and know that they are protected forever. They are willing to pay taxes to support these areas. The partnership that was created in order to leverage that money was with the Five Valley's Land Trust, Rocky Mtn. Elk Foundation, USFS, etc. Funding from Land and Water Conservation Funds were key to leveraging the money and partnership.
Challenges	I am with a 4-Wheel Drive organization. We have been working with the Forest Service on Wild Bill Park near Lakeside, MT. One of our issues is the turnover rate of federal employees. We keep having to start over explaining issues, establishing relationships because federal employees get transferred and then we have to start over it is very frustrating. Then you have to start over with new people for 10 years, than another 10 years and over and over
Challenges	Agencies were structured around military models and moving people every 3-5 years. It is not working for local communities and probably not serving federal employees well either.
Challenges	I was an NPS brat and grew up in Yellowstone. I am a Landscape Architect in Missoula. I have counted at least 10 federal agencies involved in recreation, conservation/preservation. Need to have one agency with oversight or better coordination between them. Need to address local land conservation on a national basis and create the culture to do that. I am involved in a project on Kootenai reservoir which was built by the Corp and now managed by Forest Service. There was an article in the Missoulian today that discussed it. Missoula has environmental awareness because people came to University of Montana , liked the environment and stayed. Missoula has a culture for caring about land. Missoula has these values. How do we spread those values?
Challenges	We need to learn the lesson of history in Montana and watch the big money. Note the situation in the Bitterroot valley. Big money and developers have been coming in while the locals have worked to determine what good land use is. There are a lot of people coming in to make money and pollute and don't like these community processes that protect land. Our state legislature is heavily influenced by big money. Local folks need to hold the line. We need to be sophisticated in our advocacy and we need to be just as tough as big developers are and mobilize people to fight for the public interest. We have the local people who can say no to big money and development. Good planning protects private property rights.
Challenges	Multiple Use has taken a back seat to development, this concept has been lost.

Challenges	We don't have agility to get money to support and back conservation efforts. When an opportunity is there, we need to know that our backs are going to be covered. Need agility in funding. Sometimes it takes years to find a funding source. We have lots of opportunities right now, such as connecting Yellowstone to Glacier and this is an amazing place to get huge protected landscapes. Need federal support to accomplish this. We have an opportunity now to protect some lands, we have some breathing room from development because of the economy. We need to have agility to be able to backfill other conservation efforts. Let's dive in and protect lots of land now. We could connect many public lands. Montana is a great place to get huge amounts of conservation done. We can do it here.
Challenges	One of our greatest challenges is partisan politics, changes in administration. We had an initiative when Bush was president, now we have this one. The administrations keep changing. What will be the lasting legacy here? Ex. Roosevelt or Aldo Leopold era. How do we as a local community and a nation get past the partisan politics where things change so fast. Budgets are tied to military and disasters. How do we as the conservation community make a conservation connection to jobs, the economy?
Challenges	Conservation of open lands. Society has now taken the leap to understand that development is the greatest threat to our open spaces. The forest legacy program in Montana works really well. There are a lot of issues. How do we pay for all of this? Limited funds available in federal grant programs to make open space pay for itself. Having an environmental ethic begins at a young age. I got involved with agencies as an SCA. We need to build on these programs to better connect youth and kids, like the Montana Conservation Corp. Great things could be done cheaply by employing youth. Agencies need to look at climate change more holistically. How can we manage our lands to mitigate climate change, how can we do things in our operations like shifting to a better vehicle fleet? I hope they (agencies) will look at those things as well.
Challenges	One of challenges in the National Park Service is congestion. Ex: Logan Pass in Glacier National Park. Need to institute more public transportation in National Parks. National Park Service should set up and provide huge leadership by eliminating cars all together. Glacier could be a leading example. Glacier already has bus fleet. There is already a historic connection to Glacier NP and trains. Imagine Glacier without cars. I realize there would be resistance from local business. This might have some local support.
Challenges	So many men and women are graduating with tremendous debt which affects the kinds of jobs they feel able to pursue. There should be a program for kids who work for federal agencies that reduces or pays off their debt. Zack your generation is a resource to agencies. Working on conservation programs with agencies seems like a natural way for youth to pay off debt. Also works towards concept of service learning and life of ethic.
Challenges	Agencies have the authority to work with students to bring them into employment and if they come to work for the NPS the agency can provide relief to college debt, we need to use it!

Challenges	Kids don't have any clue this exists. This needs to be advertised.
Challenges	<p>Connecting people to the outdoors. Working with people with ALL abilities to connect them to the outdoors.</p> <p>Provide people with information as to what is available. Provide adaptive equipment so people of all abilities have access. This is a model.</p>
Challenges	I think we should look at the public schools, younger kids. We need to make more of an effort to get kids out to field trips, local areas. Some place they can grow and love and feel safe in. Outside experiences when kids are young are really important. Agencies should use <i>no child left inside</i> and connect to kids through public schools and get them out, even to local places. Maybe then they would take the step to work outdoors.
Challenges	Most of the young people in the Montana Conservation Corp (MCC) are not from Montana. It provides an opportunity for people to come here and cultivate an outdoor ethic. Montana Conservation Corp incorporates work and conservation education components to draw people into an outdoor experience.
Challenges	What are the kids 'reactions once they come here and participate in the MCC? Is there anything we can do to facilitate more of that? How can we bring more kids?
Challenges	MCC incorporates the service work with educational components and encourages members to get out and do more community work. It connects young people to the environment. People in Montana are lucky.
Federal Governments Role	<p>I grew up outside DC and am here as an MCC crew leader. I grew up going to museums and not to parks. We need to tie the service learning approach and focus it on doing outdoor service learning, rather than in the urban population centers. Montana is doing a good job of getting local school kids outside and connecting them with local landscapes. We need to convince schools that we need to take time from teaching for state/fed standardized tests and get kids outdoors. Time spent studying for these tests are keeping kids inside. Need to apply scholastic tests to knowledge of outdoors and conservation as well.</p> <p>The administration should pass the <i>No Child Left Inside Act</i>. This bill would provide funding to get kids outside and teach them about the outdoors. We have a fantastic <i>Children in Nature Network</i> that involves many partners and has been very successful in getting kids outdoors. The Federal government should have a bigger role in coordinating more children and nature programs. Land agencies should have staff committed to these</p>

	programs.
Federal Governments Role	<p>Federal govt. needs to lead in interagency teams to provide outreach into community working circles.</p> <p>These feds could work together on planning how to do outreach to communities.</p> <p>Bitterroot constitutionals are saying all govt. is bad. We can't let this defeat a good democratic trust. It takes guts to be a good progressive government official. Need good interagency cooperation and integrate the best of the citizens and the good bureaucracy. Need to support the Superintendent in Glacier NP in his efforts to establish wilderness in Glacier and Yellowstone.</p>
Federal Governments Role	Where do we stand in having environments that have hurt the economy of Montana? A new monument proposal has hurt the economy.
Federal Governments Role	There is no agenda or conspiracy. There are places where we need gas, more energy etc...These have to go hand in hand with conservation.
Federal Governments Role	<p>There are so many people in this nation that don't know what agencies do. The Forest Service in a huge agency.</p> <p>Posters for this session listed the "Forestry Service." This would be a good civics lesson for schools.</p> <p>Have agency people go to schools and give civics lessons about the work that land conservation agencies perform.</p>
Federal Governments Role	The public is suspicious of lands being removed from the local economy. There isn't good input from those areas who are also interested in conservation as well as resource development. The Feds need to consider involvement at local level. Resident of Philips County. New national monument. But no meetings like this have been scheduled in that area. It has happened before with Upper Missouri river Breaks. Need meetings in Miles City, Glasgow, and Billings. 2/3 of the state doesn't have the population but they have the land mass.
Federal Governments Role	I agree, we need to have as many as possible. Comment on the website that you want a local meeting.
Federal Governments Role	Feds need to support small farmers. Need a comprehensive strategy to support small farmers.
	I just retired as Forest Archeologist on Lolo National Forest here in Montana. There is a little known program called <i>Passport in Time</i> that allows public to participate on archeology projects throughout the National Forest system. However, there is no incentive for Forests to participate, no specific funding available, and the Forest doesn't

	<p>get any recognition or points for doing this. Very positive program for cultural resource preservation but more importantly is what it does for education of the public on cultural resources as well as other resource issues such as wildlife, wolf reintroduction, fire and role of fire. It is a very successful program, but very small and not well known. But the payoff is tremendous for support for conservation and public education.</p> <p>I had couple from Manhattan New York who came to Montana to work in this program. On their first trip they took a bus all the way from the east coast to participate. They come back every year, but now they fly. The pay off for such a program is tremendous for conservation and education.</p>
	<p>There are regions within the state but have oversight in Montana.</p> <p>At FVCC we have a volunteer garden for the community and picking up trash along rivers. Use a local location like a fairground with booths where people could learn more about programs like Montana Conservation Corp. or you can maintain a local trail as a family. Need a bigger media splash about opportunities to do work on public lands.</p>
	<p>Congress does have role to play through the appropriations process. Congress has an accountability to focus on public lands. Need greater Congressional accountability.</p>
	<p>Working aspect of Forests, many people make a lively hood. In the video at the start of this session there were only a couple clips of people working in woods. Livelihoods made by working in the woods is important to recognize.</p>
	<p>Don't forget outfitters. We provide the skills to help people get access to places to Bob Marshall.</p>
	<p>Balance. We need to find the balance between working landscapes and protected landscapes. We need to develop collaborative efforts that find a balance between the two.</p>
	<p>Thanks for listening and participating.</p> <p>Comments have been captured and will be considered. We will also be going to places like Los Angeles and talking to a totally different community. I was in Santa Monica recently and encountered youth who had never touched the Pacific Ocean.</p> <p>We need to work together. Montanans have done an outstanding job and we need to take these lessons and find that balance. The US set the conservation ethic for the world; now we are looking at a new vision for the future.</p>
	<p>Comments from Light Blue Breakout Room</p>
	<p>Interested in tying into issue of child obesity and getting kids outdoors, also Michelle Obama's efforts. Would like to see more effort in getting kids interested in cultural</p>

	resource efforts and opportunities in MT and getting volunteers involved. Difficulties in getting resources (e.g. state park funding – need basic maintenance)
	Their company hosts Farm Tours for 3 rd and 4 th graders from Seeley lake area and Lincoln, MT schools, where they teach about their livelihood: production agriculture, weed mgmt, Water Quality, predator control; Often adults from this effort and the Potomac area attend.
	2 pilot projects her organization is involved in: 1 – Access to information on outdoors. One stop shopping where they have partnered w/ State Parks and FS. Focus is on NW MT, providing general recreation information, along with accessibility and other outdoor info resources to the public 2 – Recreation Program focused on wildlife viewing, fishing, and hunting. They offer an equipment loan program, much of which is adaptive equipment designed to facilitate use by people with disabilities. Also provide mentoring and education components. Many partners – FS State parks, private land owners
	CFAC(?) Works on land use issues. They have been forming committees to bring landowners, user groups, business and others together. Working on policies at local level; smart growth promotion; connect people w/ food source (farmers/public)
	Need a strategy where conservation & connecting people come together through restoration. There is an opportunity for restoration work to provide multiple benefits, such as connecting people w/ land, engaging people in caring for the land. Need a heavy investment from the Administration in restoration (e.g. Clark Fork restoration work, Mill Town Dam removal). Lots of opportunities: abandoned mines; timber road restoration; forest health issues; bank erosion & water supply. Rewards will be measured in jobs, connection, and care for places we love.
	Working to get local food into school cafeterias. Teach kids where food comes from by having hands on activities; working w/school gardens, class room activities. Getting school kids to see chain from garden to final product
	Addressing all questions; restoration where it's at. Trout conservancy working w/ many landowners and partners at long term restoration; applying science (how streams work). We have plenty of biologists, need people that can put it to use on the ground. Knowledge has increased, but problems are same – collapse of habitat and land relationships. Best strategy is volunteer work – planting native plants, hands on projects; satisfaction of long term benefits; Obstacles – Restoration is where it's at. List of work goes on and on – mines, roads maintenance, culvert replacement, roads put to bed; agricultural impacts. People want to know what they can do to help – need projects & money to be ready (e.g. Clark Fork project). Need more of these types of projects. Interest will wain w/o restoration activities. Need more than one-shot stimulus – need longer term commitment of resources. Make sure environment will be there through stewardship.
	Comments related to inner city and getting kids outdoors. Ran a 2004 summit – spin off which was captured by Richard Louve (Last Child in the Woods). A result is the North American Conservation Education Strategy: internet-based clearing house on environmental education opportunities, resources, and events. Partnership of 43 organizations (conservation and education, NGO's, Federal/State Agencies, etc) came together to create the Conservation Education Network, scheduled to launch this fall. Strongly encouraged visiting the website: www.outdoorresource.org

	<p>Also, national survey key conclusions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Kids better connected through teachers 2. Electronics – computers, etc, are competing with attention of youth -- need to get kids outside! <p>As this (America's Great Outdoors) initiative moves forward, need outreach a major part of effort.</p>
	Working on oil and gas issues. Friend has son that was affected by air pollution. Their group has had conversations with over 7500 people across the country. Oil drilling affecting many parks in the NPS; public needs to know this, and we need to pass strong legislation to protect these areas.
	Resources for action – there are many foundations and grant sources for available to the community for projects at local to national level. Also at federal level – need more incentives: how to give tax benefits to landowners for supporting this work; also land use planning (e.g. setbacks) important to coordinate federal & State land use management.
	Worked as “fish checker” w/ Lolo National Forest, on her recent job, she was not clear on why she was doing this – not connected to objectives. After learning about efforts such as Senator Tester's bill, the Blackfoot Challenge, etc. she feels inspired by this work. If people have a say, and understand more about the projects and restoration, they will feel more empowered. Employees need more info to see the fruit of their efforts. Restoration is important, can bring people together, create jobs, and conserves open spaces. Helpful for honeybee conservation. They need open space. Ties to collaboration.
	Real opportunity for international cooperation to complete Waterton Glacier NP expansion.
	Need parents and families to be involved – They have a pilot program reconnecting children w/ nature (Park Service) to get adults comfortable in nature. Federal govt can be involved in getting parents connected and over their fear of the outdoors, and enabling them to pass on to children.
	Comments from Red Breakout Room
What Works	Multi ownership land exchanges – had a tremendous positive impact on economy.
What Works	success story, Restoration of the Clark Fork River
What Works	State and local landowner conservation groups
What Works	Farm Bill has been very helpful to help farmers keep their land.
What Works	<p>the place based community driven efforts have been very successful here. Ground up – local land conservation groups.</p> <p>F. Question – do you see obstacles from the federal agency groups? Did you have to go the extra mile to sell this to the National Offices? Local folks and city put a high priority and got it in the lands and conservation fund queue and we got it because we had such a great project</p>

What Works	works in the Blackfoot, partners with BLM, counties. Sometimes partnerships are cumbersome because of different legal mandates with different agencies. To streamline: fortunate in the Blackfoot because the BLM has been flexible and has the latitude to deviate to accomplish things on the ground.
What Works	What makes a local partnership work? Need identified issue with a tangible outcome. Needs to be a desire to improve or rectify the situation with a specific outcome to get the ball rolling. This is the way to attract interest groups.
What Works	people on the ground need to be empowered, if agency personnel are not empowered you run into roadblocks. Agency people need to be supported. Farm and Ranchland Protection Program is an excellent example of a tool that works. Represents the interest on the ground; garners public support.
What Works	DNRC and Blackfoot challenge – successful because it is led from the ground. And then the fed and state have been there to support the efforts. If the agencies had come in and led it – it wouldn't have worked. It's the partnership with locals and fed and state agencies that makes it work.
What Works	state parks with historical features are a great draw to get folks out. But need to be careful so that you don't hurt the resources.
What Works	Mt Watershed Coordination Council. In the blackfoot challenge the 80/20 rule has worked which means that people knew that we weren't going to agree on everything but were willing to work together if they could get 80% of the way there. The other thing that made it work is that the blackfoot challenge isn't the only thing they do – they work in other places and spread the word. Conservation through our youth and our school boards – get the word out and spread the news. Important even in Missoula to get the kids out, leadership skills, confidence to be in the natural world.
What Works	giving young people opportunities to be out in the woods. SCA focuses on kids 15-25 yrs old.
What Works	He's 29 and he finds it weird to be called a youth. Since not a govt agency can move quickly and give youth opportunity to make decision and be empowered. They can make decisions that make a difference on the landscape. Changes lifes a lot – getting emotional. Give young people an opportunity a chance to have responsibility. Young folks dug a trail on Mt Sentinal and every day they can look up there and say – wow I did that – and everyone uses it and likes it.
What Works	projects work well when they have a recreation component. Keeps the

	community connected; voting for land bonds; helps community support conservation. Don't discourage recreation; it allows for conservation. Question – how do land bonds help? Having a range of tools in the tool box is great.
Regarding Land bonds and those vehicles – why do you use them?	local bonds are seen as one way to express the community's passion for open space and a way to leverage partnerships with federal and state agencies– a lot of positive feedback. Expanded tax incentive had been extremely successful and there has been an order of magnitude of difference in the amount of acres that have been conserved with this incentive. Room for improvement – land and conservation program –it is real money to the ranchers – the ranchers donated value isn't recognized or valued as great as the cash donation yet it is a real donation and it needs to be better recognized.
Regarding Land bonds and those vehicles – why do you use them?	local bonds help communities take advantage of federal grants that need matches. Has had recent partnerships with banks – FDIC finding they can partner in ways they hadn't before.
Regarding Land bonds and those vehicles – why do you use them?	Important to recognize the workers on the landscape and how important they are. Stewardship Contracting Authority is about to expire – Under the federal contracting system the contracts are getting bigger and there is a need to right-size contracts to fit the local workforce so the locals can keep working.
Regarding Land bonds and those vehicles – why do you use them?	some success is top down but some are bottom up. How we deal with our public lands is also important. Don't want oil and gas wells on the Rocky MT Front.
Regarding Land bonds and those vehicles – why do you use them?	geo tourism – National Geographic led an effort on both sides of the border in the Glacier area (including Canada) that shows how tourism can enhance the natural resources of the place. They pick places that are important with a focus on how the tourists can sustain the economy of the locals, for example by buying from farmers, and going to festivals, instead of going to the box stores. Important to get tourists to understand their role in protecting what is special about their place – a very great process.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	Very cautious in our approach to conservation because people need a place to live. Need to have homes and places to raise kids. Need to give communities a place to grow – don't have places to grow because of conservation easements– need to be thoughtful that we don't have a negative impact.

Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	For them – liability issues aren't a big issue.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	gets over 1000 kids a year outside in nature. Liability question – originally it was forbidding but there are a number of insurance agencies. In Missoula – there are a lot of kids who get out in the landscape – this is a great place where people actualize what they want to happen. 1) If you want to get more kids out we could use help at state level in the mandated curriculum – need a mandated outdoor curriculum. The states that have this mandated have great programs. Federal encouragement outdoor education would be helpful. 2) Funding: EPA Environmental Education grant program – a great program but woefully underfunded. Can't be used to sustain programs – his group can get it once but can't use it to sustain the program. 3) Making national organizations more aware of what's going on the ground. Nationals have lots of workforce and funding – nationals come in with a great idea to do the same thing that the locals are already doing.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	Local– bought his own Forest. Rode his ATV – trespassed on a lot of Federal land and he had a very good time but there's no way he could walk to the M – because he's beyond that. Need open roads for people to be able to enjoy the outdoors.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	Success – Travelers Rest State Park. Mt Conservation Fund initiated the beginning of the park. Needed someone to take on ownership of the park to use the Conservation Funds. They formed a non-profit organization to run a State park and the non-profit manages the park. Have grown from 15 to 50 acres. Challenges – needed to acquire additional parcels. Were able to use the stateside LCF funds but they have run out. The Non-profit is continuously challenged with getting operational money – how to continually fund the site. Have successfully used stimulus money but they don't know how they will manage with the stimulus funds go away.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	The cost of being a partner with the Feds is becoming increasingly expensive. National Park Service are putting them into contracting instead of Grants and Agreements. They have to build an infrastructure to be able do what the Feds can't do. Then they have to compete – are not being treated as partners. (PERSONAL ASIDE FROM THE NOTE TAKER: we have had numerous partners complain about the difficulty of working with the grants.gov system. Some of them have stated that it makes working with the BLM more difficult.)
Any examples where something that didn't	citizen; not associated with a conservation group – born and raised in MT – his parents were homesteaders – issues not being addressed in this session – There is

look like it was going to work and yet it does?	a move in DC to designate lands in MT as national mounument. His Dad couldn't walk but he had a jeep and he could drive all of the FS roads to hunt. Are moving towards roadless areas and access by foot only and that takes a lot of people out of the ability to recreate. Need to make the land better and one of the ways of making it better is to make it accessible. In past FS treated land as a renewable source of energy and products. Letting trees grow old and die is not using them wisely. Also observed that local agencies and local people do a better job of keeping things in perspective then the folks in DC. The bureaucracy of Fed govt keeps things from happening. Things really happen from local knowledge and local funding. The further DC stays out of MT the better.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	Important to maintain successes like BFC but important that the big projects don't overshadow the smaller projects. Important to remember that the most successful projects start small so want them to be able to compete. Many rural communities are not able to compete for rural development funds. Scope and scale are important. Fuels for schools projects are great but again a scale issue because those projects work best for larger campuses – k-12 but there are smaller schools who would like to take advantage of this.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	regarding Biomass: the State and Private Forestry money for schools for fuels is going away. Regarding an experienced workforce: people think about recreating on the forested lands so it is important to keep an experienced workforce so we have the ability to manage the land such that people want to recreate on it. Regarding Bonds: whenever work occurs on NFS lands the operator needs to have a bond – but there are only 2 or 3 companies nation-wide that will cover the bonds – a huge barrier.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	We are working in a changing landscape. At one time people thought that plum creek land was public – didn't know it was private. As changes in ownership occur – access is changing. He manages over 1000 miles of motorized trails. That infrastructure is greater then a private landowner can support. Liability is very scary – really worried that trees will fall on people or people will get hurt. Important for folks to understand these issues. There are children in Seeley Lake who don't go hiking, fishing, don't go outdoors. His wife created an adventure club and taught them how to go outdoors, ethically, safely, at no cost. It doesn't take a pile of money to get kids outdoors.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	Regarding his involvement with 4H - it doesn't always take DC to get money – important to realize that the local timber companies have been very generous. As we lose these industries we lose so much money and support. Regarding access: He is a backpacker but when he wants to take out his 90 year old grandparents to hear wolves he used to drive – but now the roads are closed. He heats his house with firewood. Used to go up roads with family to cut firewood– it is a family

	activity and gets kids outdoors. But now people can't get out as a family to collect firewood. Also lots of families camp in non-designated areas – when the roads are closed they can't do that.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	; Need to get a handle on noxious weeds. Need to have statewide program.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	totally led and funded by local people – no government funding or supported. Boys and Girls club are also funded locally. He wants to put a plug in that there are young people and organizations that go into woods and don't need federal govt to tell people how to do it. He understands why plum creek closes the roads but it didn't use to be that way. Now private and public all close roads. Now if don't backpack 20 miles you can't see the roads. NO MORE roadless areas. Let's log the forests and keep the roads as trails.
Any examples where something that didn't look like it was going to work and yet it does?	important to not just focus on youth but on all segments of the public. A significant portion of the population go out and trash the outdoors and shoot the signs. Education needs to be more broadly based.
Comments from Missoula Parks and Recreation	
New Strategies For Conserving Private Lands	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition by public land manager or Conservation organization (e.g. USFS, NPS, BLM purchase of private in-holdings, County or City purchase for open space or park with bond funds and LWCF funds), a private land trust purchase for wildlife habitat using combo of private donations and federal, state, and/or local funds etc). • Conservation easements (again, a mixture of private, state, local & federal funds are often used to purchase easements) • Land use regulations (some states have been much more successful than others with this approach)
To increase effectiveness of the established methods of land conservation	<u>Fully fund LWCF</u> – This program has been so under-funded for so long. It is one of the main sources of federal funding that can be used on such a wide variety of land acquisition – from a much needed inner-city park to protection of critical wildlife habitat. Full funding of \$900,000,000/yr would significantly increase land preservation all across the US. Passage of the Land and Water Conservation Authorization and Funding Act of 2009 (S. 2747) would achieve this goal.
To increase effectiveness of the established methods of land	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Continue Tax Incentives & Increase federal conservation funding</u> – Restore permanently the tax

conservation	incentives for landowners who grant a conservation easement and increase funding of federal programs that help fund the purchase of C.E. (e.g. The Forest Legacy Program, The Farm & Ranch Land Protection Program)
To increase effectiveness of the established methods of land conservation	<u>Assist Local Govt with Land Use Planning</u> – Many rural cities and counties do not have the money or expertise to plan for growth in a more sustainable way. Many of these local govt are located in areas with large amounts of public land that is impacted by the rural growth. The USDA publication "Cooperating Across Boundaries" (FS-861 August 2006) began by stating that USFS Chief Bosworth identified the loss of open space as one of the 4 threats facing our Nation's forests and grasslands.
To increase effectiveness of the established methods of land conservation	Pass the Livable Communities Act (S.1619), which would help communities develop comprehensive regional plans that incorporate transportation, housing, community and economic development, and environmental needs.
To increase effectiveness of the established methods of land conservation	Set up offices in each Regional Office of the FS that assist local govt with planning for conservation of sensitive lands (e.g. lands w/in Wildland Urban Interface, critical habitat, wildlife corridors). Provide funding and expertise to this FS staff to implement the FS Open Space Conservation Strategy published in Nov. 2007 (FS-889), including the identified Priority Actions of "convening partners to identify and protect priority open space" and "participating in community growth planning to reduce ecological impacts and wildfire risks." (FS-889 page 5)
	Assist with expanding efforts like Collier County Florida's Stewardship Credits program (explained on page 23 of FS-861 publication mentioned above).
How can we reduce the footprint of how much land we use for roads and all types of development?"	<u>Re-authorization of the Federal Transportation Bill</u> – Groups such as Transportation for American and the Smart Growth America have been working hard to reform the next T-Bill to increase public and active transportation funding so that citizens have more choices for getting to work, school, shopping etc. Their strategies include many ways to reduce the need to further expand the already millions of acres devoted to roads.
	<u>Land Use Planning</u> – Again, there are many opportunities for the Federal govt to assist local govt to reduce sprawl from continuing to consume our rural farm and ranches.

New Strategies For Connecting People With The Outdoors	<p>Pass the No Child Left Inside Act (HR 2054 & S. 866) – This Act would provide funding for expanding environmental education in schools in order to get kids outdoors to learn and care about their environment and have the opportunity to be active and enjoy the outdoors.</p> <p>Children in Nature – Many local, state and federal agencies are working separately and together to develop programs to get kids outdoors to connect with nature and be physically active after school or on weekends. Greater coordination and funding from the Federal govt could substantially increase these efforts.</p> <p>Increase funding for the Recreational Trails Program – The majority of this funding goes to construct trails that connect city residents with parks and open space, providing more opportunities for children to be active and enjoy the outdoors.</p> <p>Increase funding for Safe Routes to School – This is one of the best ways to reduce children being driven to school each day – provide a safe route so that they can walk or ride their bikes instead.</p> <p>Help create more opportunities for both volunteer programs and paid work – 1000's of young folks are connected to the outdoors by volunteering for local, state and public parks, but many local govts don't have the resources to either create or expand upon volunteer programs. Assistance from NPS or the USFS could make a big difference. Also, help increase programs that assist college students with paid internships or paying back college loans in exchange for working outdoors.</p>
<u>Getting more Adults Outdoors</u>	<p>Support Social Marketing and Social Norming – This is one of the best ways to inform leaders, parents and children that getting outdoors is healthy and positive. Social marketing has changed the way we think about litter, forest fires, seatbelts, recycling and more.</p> <p>Increase CTEP Funding – This is one of the major funding sources for constructing bike/ped trails that are used for commuting and recreation by adults of all ages and abilities and children. Such funding is often used to build bike/ped trails that are completely separate from roads in beautiful greenways, which encourages more adults to ride and exercise when they feel safely separated from auto traffic.</p>
Effective Federal Partnership With Local Public & Private Recreation Advocates	<p>Interagency Planning as areas relate to watersheds, urban areas, and planning zones. Planning should involve various public and private parties and emphasize overall goals of healthy built communities and supporting children (and adults) connecting with the outdoors.</p>

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